

SEP 06 2006

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Second Amendment After Final
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10827-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

Please cancel claims 70, 71 and 72 without prejudice.

1-58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning or electropolishing a stent formed from an alloy comprising at least one noble metal and at least one non-noble metal, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a tubular member formed from an alloy comprising at least one noble metal and at least one non-noble metal, said non-noble metal selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, cobalt-chromium alloys, and nickel-titanium alloys;
- b) laser cutting a stent pattern in said tubular member to form a stent;
- c) electropolishing said stent in an aqueous acidic mixture comprising at least one chelating or complexing agent, said chelating agent comprising at least one sulfur atom and at least one halide in the form of a salt or an acid; and
- d) subjecting said acidic mixture to a multiple pulse waveform.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Original) The method of claim 59 further comprising the step of soaking said stent in an acidic mixture of fluoroboric and nitric acids.

62. (Original) The method of claim 59 further comprising the step of etching said stent in an electrolytic acidic bath comprising at least one chelating or complexing agent having at least one sulfur ion before said electropolishing step.

63. (Original) The method of claim 59 wherein said multiple pulse waveform is a periodic reverse multiple pulse waveform.

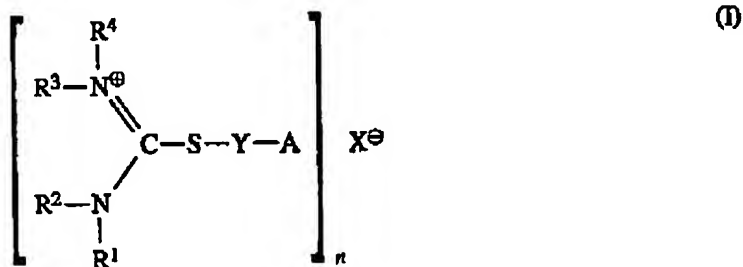
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64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of thiourea, derivatives of thiourea, thiouronium salts, thiocarboxylic acids or salts thereof and mixtures thereof.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of thiouronium salts having the general formula:



where

R₁ to R₄ are each hydrogen, C₁ - C₈ -alkyl, which may be carboxyl-, C₁ - C₄ -alkoxycarbonyl- or cyano-substituted, C₂ - C₁₂ -alkenyl, C₂ - C₁₂ -~~alkenyl~~ alkinyl, C₅ - C₈ cycloalkyl, C₇ - C₁₂ phenylalkyl or phenyl which may be substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁ - C₄ alkyl, C₁ - C₄ alkoxy, halogen, hydroxyl, phenyl and C₁ - C₄ alkoxycarbonyl;

Y is a chemical bond or linear or branched alkylene, alkenylene or ~~alkenylene~~ alkinylene having in each case up to 20 carbon atoms;

A is hydrogen or a group of the formula --COH, --COR₅, --COOH, --COOR₅,

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--CONR₆R₇, --COCH₂COOR₅, --OCOH, --OCOR₅, --NR₆COR₅, --OR₅, --SO₂R₅,
 --SO₂OH, --SO₂OR₅, --PO(OH)₂, --PO(OH)(OR₅), --PO(OR₅)₂, OPO(OH)₂,
 --OPO(OH)(OR₅) or --OPO(OR₅)₂, where R₅ is C₁ - C₁₂ alkyl, C₂ - C₁₂ alkenyl, C₂ - C₁₂
 alkynyl, C₅ - C₈ cycloalkyl, C₇ - C₁₂ phenylalkyl or phenyl which may be substituted by
 one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁ - C₄ alkyl, halogen,
 hydroxyl, phenyl and C₁ - C₄ alkoxy carbonyl, and R₆ and R₇ are each hydrogen or C₁ -
 C₄ alkyl;

n is from 1 to 4; and

X⁻ is an n-valent inorganic or organic anion that promotes solubility in water.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of N-methylthiourea, N,N'-dimethylthiourea, N,N,N',N'-tetramethylthiourea, N-ethylthiourea, N,N'-diethylthiourea, N,N,N',N'-tetraethylthiourea, N-phenylthiourea, N,N'-diphenylthiourea, N-phenyl-N-methylthiourea, N-phenyl-N'-methylthiourea, N,N'-dibutylthiourea, N-benzylthiourea, N-allylthiourea, N,N'-dicyclohexylthiourea and mixtures thereof.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said at least one noble metal is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, platinum, iridium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, and ruthenium.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said at least one noble metal is a platinum group metal selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, rhodium, palladium, osmium and ruthenium.

70-72. (Canceled)

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73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein said stent is formed from an alloy which is a platinum enriched stainless steel alloy.

74. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[59]]~~ 73 wherein said stent is formed from ~~[[an]] a platinum-enriched stainless steel~~ alloy comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of platinum, chromium, nickel, iron and mixtures thereof.